

A Faith to Live By

An Independent Study of the
Westminster Confession of Faith

How to use this study guide effectively each week:

1. **Pray** that the Holy Spirit would use the week's material to increase your knowledge of God and His Word. (see Psalm 119:1-8)
2. **Read the Confession of Faith** (WCF) sections listed. Read the proof texts too.
3. **Memorize the Scripture** verse(s) listed.
(Sometimes they may not line up with the particular WCF sections, but they all build to give good memory references for the overall chapter.)
4. **Work through the discussion questions.**
It is best to write down your answers.
The questions may sometimes be difficult. Think, pray, ponder. Don't worry if you don't have answers to everything! We will discuss at our monthly meeting.
Our main goal is thoughtfulness on the matters of God's Word, not getting everything right or clear the first time through.
5. **Come to the monthly discussion** prepared to interact with the material.

Week 2 (1/16) - What Scripture Is and Is Not

- Read: WCF 1.2-1.3

- Memorize: Psalm 19:8

The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

- Study questions:

- How many books are in the Bible? How many in the Old Testament? How many in the New Testament?

- How is Scripture set apart from all other books? How does this inform our life and doctrine?

- How might we be tempted to add or take away from the Scriptures? How is the warning in Revelation 22:18-19 relevant to this discussion?

- In his commentary on the confession, Chad van Dixhoorn writes, “Those who ignore the Holy Scripture are doomed to stumble into ever deepening darkness.” Why is this this? How can we avoid this?

- How should Christians view the Apocrypha? If they are not inspired, should we read them at all?

Week 3 (1/23) - Authority and Sufficiency

- Read: WCF 1.4-1.6

- Memorize: Psalm 19:9

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.

- Study questions:

- Upon whose testimony should we trust in Scripture? How does Scripture itself support this conclusion?

- What is some of the “abundant evidence” which the Bible gives about itself, testifying that it is the Word of God?

- From where does our final and full assurance in God’s Word come? How can this comfort us?

- How might your understanding of the Spirit help you respond to someone who says that we cannot know God?

- Why is it important to know that unlike any other book, Scripture is sufficient for salvation and all matters of faith?

- Give examples of what is ‘expressly set down in Scripture’ and what is ‘deduced by good and necessary consequence’. Why do we sometimes need to make deductions? Why do we need to be careful when we do this?

- If we do not need new revelations of the Spirit, why do we still need the Spirit?

- How should Scripture regulate our worship? How can Christian prudence inform our worship?

Week 4 (1/30) - Clarity and Interpretation

- Read: WCF 1.7-1.10

- Memorize: 2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

- Study questions:

- How might knowing that a passage of Scripture is not always clear in itself shape our study of God's Word? How might knowing that not all of Scripture is "alike clear unto all" humble us?
- How might knowing that God preserved His Word help you to praise Him and trust His Word?
- Why is it vitally important to remember that the most important resource to help us understand the Bible is the Bible itself?
- How does knowing that God's Word is meant to be read as one book help you read it?
- Why is it important to understand that Scripture is the supreme judge of spiritual things?

Monthly Discussion: Thursday, February 3 @ 7:00pm